

A still life illustration of a quill pen in an inkwell, an open book, and two rolled-up scrolls on a wooden desk. The quill is positioned diagonally across the frame, with its tip resting in a small glass inkwell. The open book is in the background, and the two scrolls are in the foreground. The text "Henry Fielding" is overlaid in a large, red, stylized font.

Henry Fielding

Main Points

1. *Fielding's Life & his works*

2. *Tom Jones*

3. *Bildungsroman & the picaresque novel*

4. *Plot*

5. *Themes*

6. *Text from "Tom Jones": The foundling*

Henry Fielding



- Birth: Somerset, 1707

- Aristocratic family

- He attended

Eton College

University of Leiden

Henry
Fieldi
ng



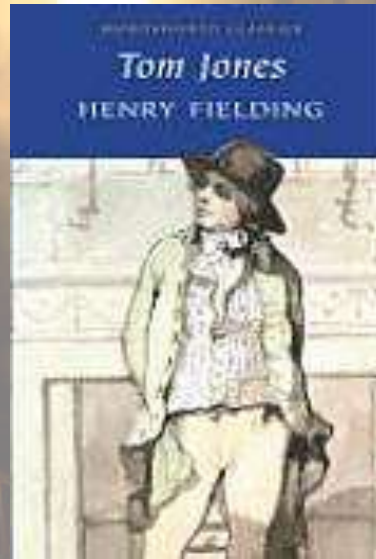


Eton Colleg e

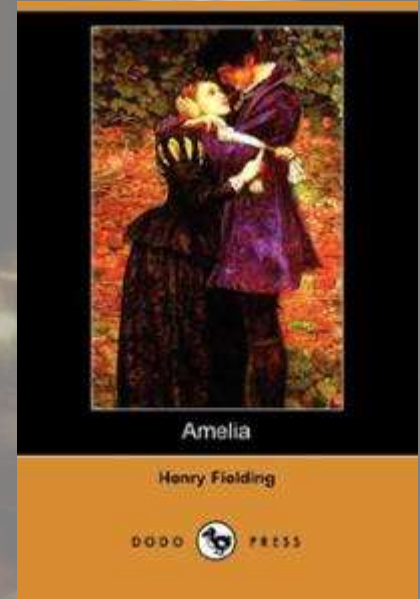
- 1739: journalist
- Against legal corruption
- He lived in Portugal
- Death: Lisbon, 1754

Works

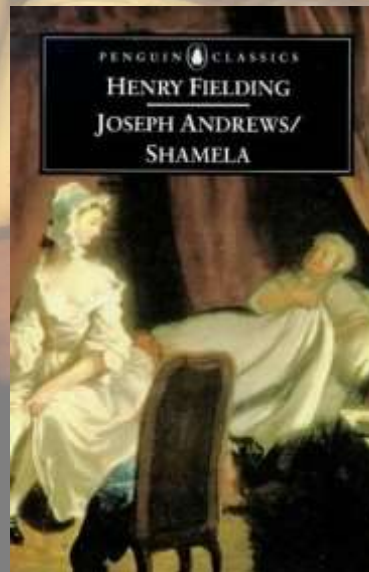
- Tom Jones



- Amelia



- Shamela



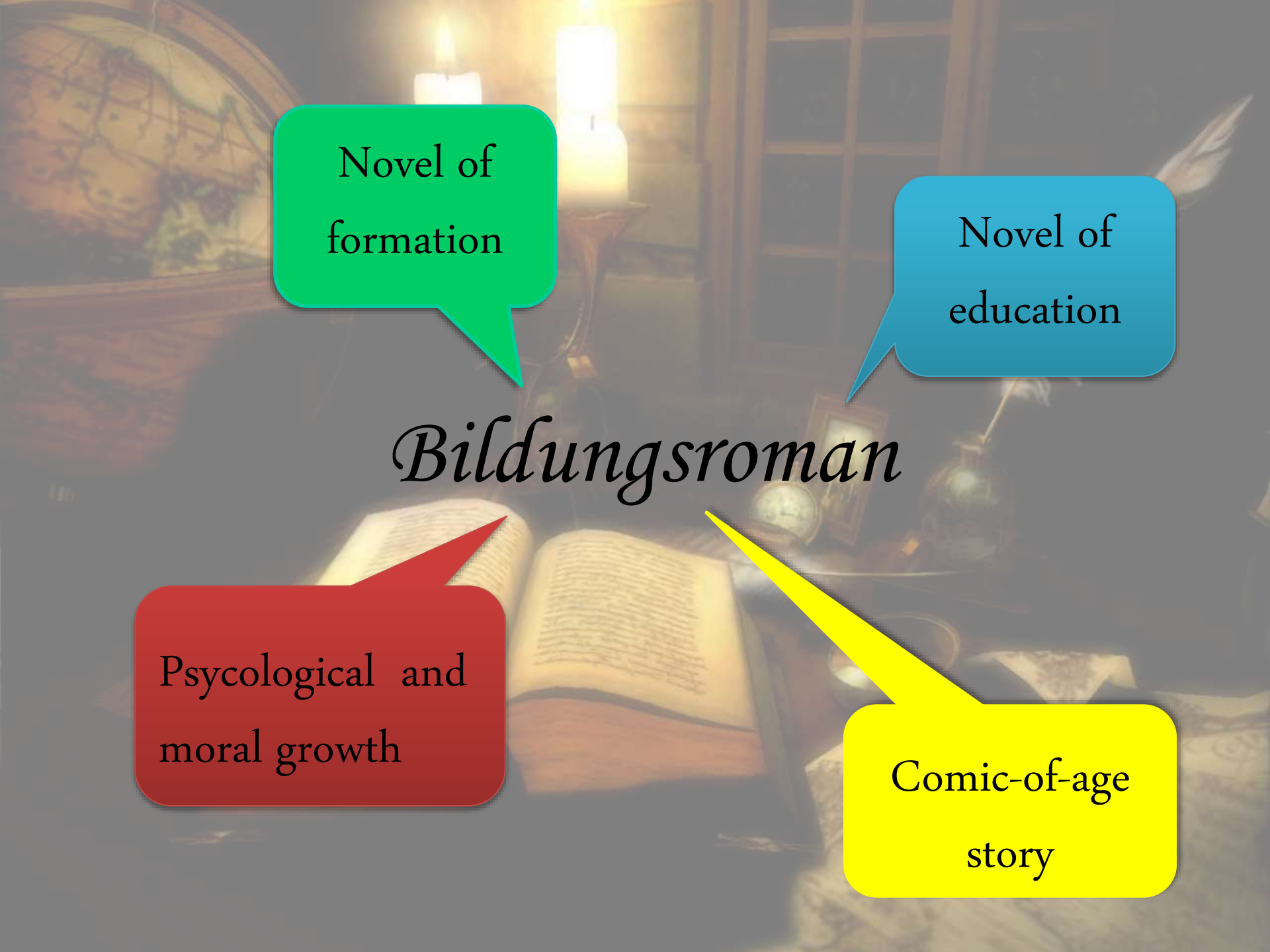
Tom Jones



Tom Jones

- Author: *Henry Fielding*
- Bildungsroman
- Picaresque
- First publication: 1749, London
- First prose work considered a novel
- 18 books
- 3 divided sequences:
 - *Life in the*
 - *Countryside*
 - *In London*
- Tom's adventures are not casual





Novel of
formation

Novel of
education

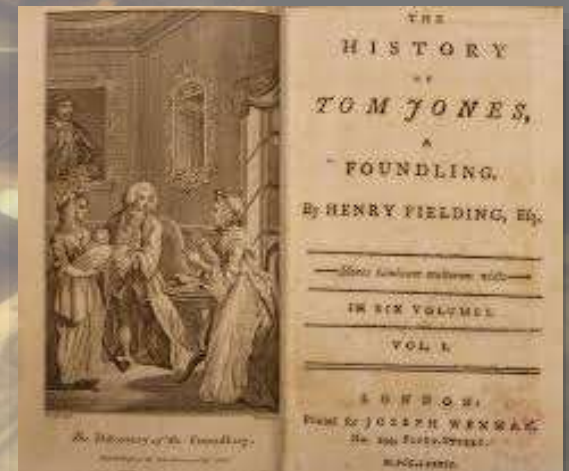
Bildungsroman

Psychological and
moral growth

Comic-of-age
story

The picaresque novel

- *Prose fiction*
- *Realistic style* —————→ *Comedy & Satire*
- Spain: XVI century
- Europe: XVII & XVIII centuries



Main Characters of Tom Jones



The plot of Tom Jones



Tom is a foundling adopted
by Mr Allworthy.

Mr Allworthy's sister and Captain Blifil have a son, Master Blifil.

Master Blifil is brought up with Tom.

Tom is contrasted with Blifil.

Tom:

- *full of vices*
- *a loafer*

Blifil:

- *full of good qualities*
- *kind*
- *gentle*
- *tranquil.*

- *kind-hearted*
- *generous*
- *honest*
- *has common sense.*

- *hypocrite*
- *opportunistic*
- *evil.*

On the road...

19 years old: Tom is a good-looking and generous young man.

Tom → falls for Molly Seagrim.

→ falls in love with Squire Western's daughter, Sophia.

Tom is thrown out of the house by Mr Allworthy

On the road, he has various adventures.

...In London

Sophia → runs away from home

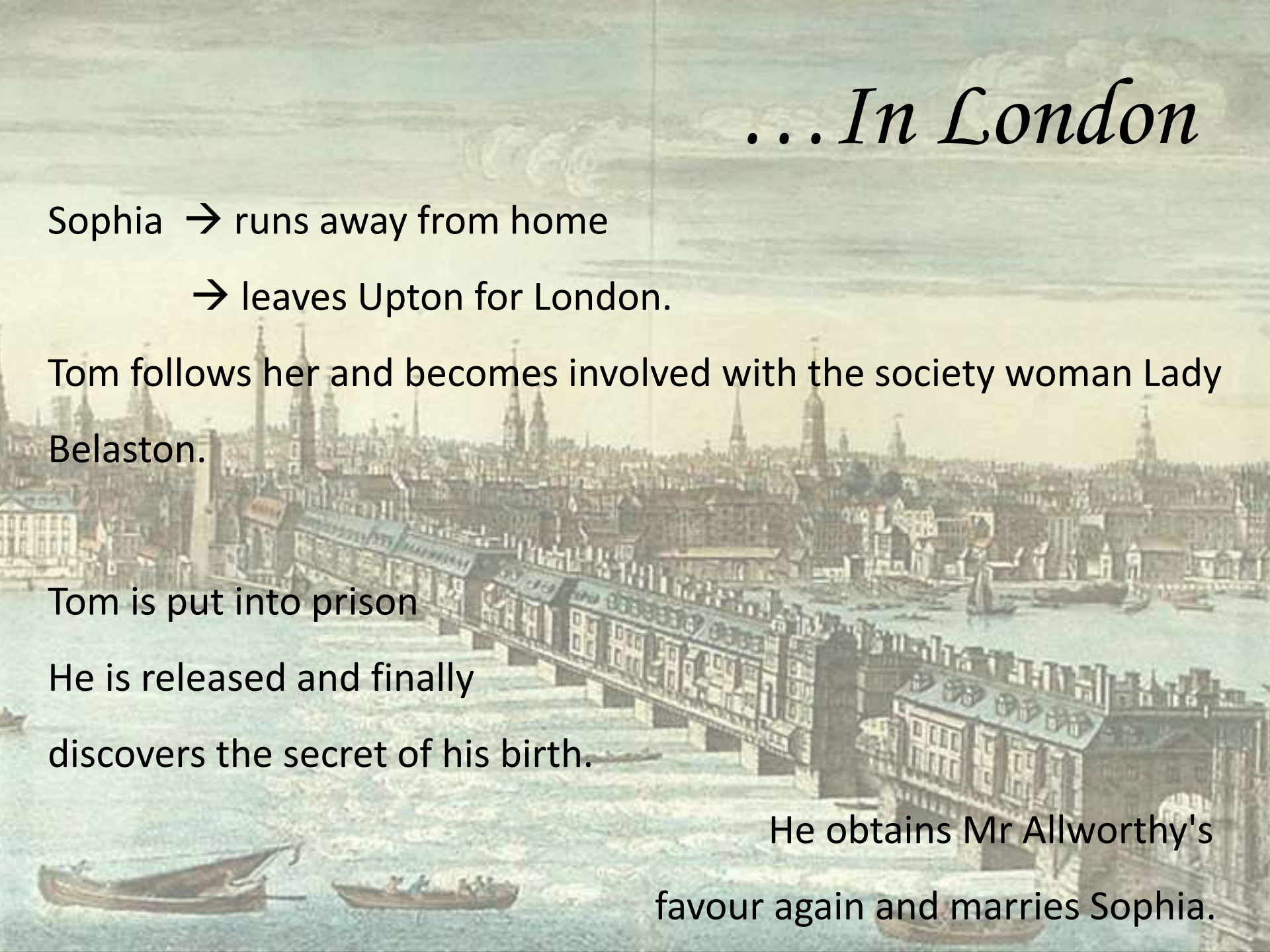
→ leaves Upton for London.

Tom follows her and becomes involved with the society woman Lady Belaston.

Tom is put into prison

He is released and finally
discovers the secret of his birth.

He obtains Mr Allworthy's
favour again and marries Sophia.



Themes

1. *Family*
2. *Gender*
3. *Foolishness & folly*
4. *Society & Class*
5. *Hypocrisy*
6. *Fortune*



Text from Tom Jones

1

The foundling

→ *First part of Tom Jones*

→ *Description of the foundling of Tom*

→ *Mr Allworthy's character*

heart & good sentiments

→ *modern man*

→ *generous*

↓
does not care about prejudices

→ *Mrs Wilkins*

*importance in
appearances and
decency*

→ *closed in her consternation*

→ *suggest to cast out the baby*

↓
more conservative

Text from Tom Jones

2

The foundling

“Tom Jones” → more information about the Augustan Age

└→ *precise style of life*

└→ *criticised stories*

└→ *prejudices*

